

460-LAND CLEARING (AC.)

Removing trees, stumps, and other vegetation from wooded areas.

Purpose

To achieve needed land use adjustments and improvements in the interest of soil and water conservation and in keeping with the capabilities of the land.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

This practice applies to wooded areas where the removal of trees, stumps, brush, and other vegetation is needed in carrying out a soil and water conservation plan, and the land to be cleared will be used in accordance with its capabilities.

Planning Considerations

The plan shall specify the kinds of timber to be salvaged, lengths of logs, and place of stacking. Method of disposal shall be specified for all material not to be salvaged. Clearing and disposal methods shall be in accordance with applicable state laws and regulations and with due regard to the safety of people and property and in a manner that controls and minimizes air, water, and noise pollution.

The cleared area shall be left in a neat and sightly condition that will facilitate the planned use and treatment of the land.

The plan shall include the measures needed to protect the cleared area from erosion.

Special attention will be given to maintaining or improving habitat for fish and wildlife where applicable. Consideration of such things as strip clearing, windrowing debris, leaving hardwoods in bottom of drows and maintaining of den and food trees should be explored.

Additional Planning Considerations for Water Quantity and Quality are as follows:

1. Removal of vegetation may significantly increase surface runoff from sloping sites with peak discharges being increased.
2. Clearing of sloping land may increase erosion and sediment yield from the site. All cleared areas, in particular areas above sensitive areas (For example recreation-water bodies) should be protected with erosion and sediment control practices immediately to provide needed reduction of sediment and other pollutants.
3. Land areas, streams, and water bodies may receive increases in organic matter, silts, and dissolved nutrients or pesticides that may lower the water quality or dissolved oxygen level in the receiving water. These areas must be recognized and appropriate treatment planned and applied.

Plans and Specifications

Plans and specifications for land clearing shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION

FOR

LAND CLEARING

Scope

This item shall consist of the clearing and disposal of cleared material from the designated areas.

All plans will be in keeping with specifications for Land Clearing.

Clearing operations shall be done in such a manner that erosion, air, water, and noise pollution will be minimized and held within legal limits as established by state or local regulations.

Procedure

All clearing shall be performed in a manner to achieve the intended purpose of the practice.

All timber to be salvaged shall be identified or marked in an acceptable manner. The method of stacking shall be adaptable to hauling equipment to be used.

All trees, stumps, and brush within the designated area shall be cut at or below ground level insofar as possible. When the cleared area is to be used for pasture, groups of trees may be left as needed for shade.

All trees, stumps, and brush shall be disposed of by burning or as designated by the technician. All burning shall conform to Alabama laws and regulations.

The use of explosives in land clearing operations shall comply with the state statutes and regulations.

The cleared area shall be left in a condition suitable for operation of heavy land preparation equipment.

Checking for Completion

After land clearing is completed, a technician will inspect the site and determine whether or not clearing was done according to plans and specifications that were prepared for the site. At this time he will determine whether or not additional erosion-control methods are needed.